

Northampton Mercury

Thursday, January 5, 2012

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Saints blow as Lawes limps out of Quins clash - Back page

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Work begins to make fire-hit building safe

THE fire that ravaged the former Angel Hotel in Northampton town centre left the building structurally unsound, the fire service has warned.

More than 50 firefighters attended Monday night's blaze, which gutted the vacant second and third floors of the three-storey building.

The ceiling of The Fat Cat Cafe Bar, which occupies part of the ground floor in the Bridge Street building, also collapsed.

Structural engineers, fire investigators and Northampton Borough Council staff examined the scene this week and scaffolding was being put in place yesterday to help support the damaged upper floors.

Normally, demolishing the top two storeys would be an option, but the building has Grade II listed status and accordingly there are rules about how it can be altered.

Investigations were this week continuing into the cause of the fire - which early indications suggested was 'not suspicious' - but it was understood the blaze began on the first floor.

Firefighters had to battle to stop the blaze spreading along Bridge Street and the businesses nearby.

Known to many as the site of two of Northampton's most popular bars - The Fat Cat Cafe and the Balloon Bar - the former Angel Hotel building used to be the biggest hotel in the town and parts of it date back to the 16th Century.

Experts were meeting yesterday to consider road closures and traffic arrangements while the area was made safe.



Smoke and flames billow from the roof space (right) as firefighters tackled the blaze on Monday night

CE picture

Warning of traffic woes

MOTORISTS are being warned to avoid one of the busiest junctions on the M1 and M6 motorways this weekend due to a 36-hour closure of the Catthorpe interchange.

The Highways Agency announced it will close the major junction, north of Crick, from midnight on Friday for the old Catthorpe Viaduct to be demolished.

The closure is scheduled to last until noon on Sunday and will result in road closures and delays.

Cobblers football fans travelling to Morecambe for Saturday's 3pm kick-off are advised to leave enough time to use alternative routes.

Drivers can keep up to date online at www.highways.gov.uk and up-to-date travel information is also available on 0300 123 5000, or by following @HAttraffic_emids on Twitter.

Last year was driest since 1921

NORTHAMPTON has experienced its driest year since 1921, with rainfall on or above average in only two months of 2011.

The annual weather report, compiled by Mike Lewis, manager of Pitsford Hall Weather Station, showed that a total of 399.5mm of rain fell in the town last year, which is two thirds of the expected amount.

Mr Lewis said: "Only two months in 2011 saw rainfall come in at close to or above average: February with 51.9mm and July with 47.4mm."

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There were 48 thefts from Northamptonshire Police since 2007

Police are not immune from thieves

NEW figures have revealed drugs, cameras, protective clothing and even police hats are among items stolen from Northamptonshire Police each year.

A total of 43 thefts and burglaries have been committed against the force and their officers since 2007, ranging from cash to keys and even drugs.

In 2011, daring thieves stole from patrol cars, police buildings or from the care of police officers on six separate occasions.

A Freedom of Information request by the *Daily Mail* revealed a back catalogue of incidents, including the theft of officers' hats from a public place last year, for which a person was charged.

Last year's figures were an improvement on previous years, with 14 incidents reported in 2009 and 12 in 2008. It includes the theft

of drugs in 2008, three separate occasions where cash was stolen in 2007, and uniforms and mobile phones in 2009.

Memory cards and computer parts are also amongst the list of stolen property, with police traffic signs one of the most frequently stolen items over the past five years.

A separate Freedom of Information request made by the Press Association revealed Northamptonshire Police had not received any complaints against officers for inappropriate use of Facebook, while more than 150 across the rest of the country faced disciplinary action over the last four years.

A Northamptonshire Police spokesman said: "We have strict guidance around the official use of Facebook and Twitter linked to activities of the force and this is a vital tool in our communication with parts of the community."

MP's offices set on fire during break-in

A NORTHAMPTON MP said a break-in at his company premises, in which burglars set fire to desks, leading to "appalling" damage, was "heartbreaking".

Conservative MP for Northampton South, Brian Binley, is chairman of BCC Marketing Services, a telesales, telemarketing and call centre company in Wellingborough, which he founded in 1989.

Burglars are believed to have broken into the company's offices in Denington Road on Boxing Day, escaping with a television

and a laptop computer.

During the burglary, Mr Binley said the perpetrators had set fire to desks, activating the office's sprinkler system and causing wide-spread water damage over the course of the next 20 hours.

Mr Binley paid tribute to his staff, who worked during the weekend to make sure the office would be open for business as usual tomorrow.

He added: "The damage is appalling, because of the sprinklers more than anything else."

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Bingo fun at boxing club

A KICKBOXING club in Northampton will host a bingo night to raise funds. ECKA Kingsthorpe, in Bective Road, has organised bingo and a tombola to run at The Pastures Community Centre, in Kingsthorpe, from 6pm until 9.30pm on February 4. Tickets cost £9.50 each and include 10 games of bingo and home-made food. Tickets for a children's party that will run alongside cost £4.50 and include games and refreshments for primary school aged children. Tickets are available by calling 07930 544153.

Tales from the grave

PEOPLE can hear ghost stories as told by the Looking Glass Theatre at Abington Park Museum this month. The theatre group will tell 'spine chilling tales from the grave' from 5pm until 6.30pm on Friday, January 13. Tickets cost £5.50 for adults and £3.50 for children, and are available to buy from the museum or by calling Northampton 838111.

A golden exhibition

AN EXHIBITION called 'Going for Gold' will be held at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery in the summer to showcase local athletes who have competed in the Olympics and Paralympics. The display will feature the stories of local athletes who have competed for the UK, including Louis Baillon who won the bronze medal for field hockey in the 1908 game. To share your stories contact Victoria Davies on Northampton 837632 or email vdavies@northampton.gov.uk.

It's time to cast votes

PEOPLE are being asked to vote for their favourite local social enterprise in a competition being run by The University of Northampton. The options are: Goodwill Solutions, Adrenaline Alley and Coco Careers. To vote visit www.getfestivegetsocial.co.uk

Calendar to raise funds

STUDENTS at The University of Northampton are raising funds for a charity that supports disabled people and their carers. Players from the university's men's football fourth team have released a 2012 charity calendar which is on sale at the student union in Park Campus. The calendar costs £6 and proceeds will go to Vitalise, a national charity that provides short breaks, respite care and holidays for disabled people and their carers.

Time bank needs you

NEW members are being sought for a Time Bank in Northamptonshire. The Time Bank was set up in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council in February and currently has more than 85 individual members and nine local organisations, who have exchanged more than 300 hours in time. Anyone interested in joining can call Nicola Jones on 07833 479096 or send an email to tomaketime@nhs.net

Exhibition of fusion

THE Punjabi Fusion Exhibition is currently on display at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery in Guildhall Road, Northampton. Punjabi Fusion is a one-year project run by the Sikh Community Centre & Youth Club (SCCYC) in partnership with Young Roots Heritage Lottery Fund and other heritage partners. Young people have been exploring the cultural history of the community over the past six decades on themes like daily life, clothing and music. The free exhibition will run until January 9.

Hall to host Abba tribute

AN ABBA tribute night will be held at Whittlebury Hall Hotel & Spa on Friday, January 6. Tickets cost £45 per person, including a three-course dinner, half-bottle of house wine, and entertainment. The night will feature all the band's familiar hits including *Dancing Queen*, *Take a Chance On Me*, *The Name of the Game* and *Thank You For The Music*. To book tickets call 0845 400 0001.



Matt Wallace is on a trek to raise money for Cancer Research UK

Matt, 30, quits job to take on charity walk

A MAN who quit his job on his 30th birthday, handed back the keys to his flat, and decided to walk from one end of Great Britain to the other, is on his way again after being hosted in Northamptonshire over the festive period.

Matt Wallace started the trek, which is raising money for Cancer Research UK, after a family friend died of the disease. En route he plans to visit every one of the charity's research centres between John O'Groats and Land's End, as well as one in Belfast.

Having left home for his starting point in Scotland in September, Mr Wallace has

since walked some 900 miles and is now well over halfway to his goal, having spent the last few days living with a friend's family on a farm in the county village of Grendon.

He said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed it so far to be honest. Not just raising the money, which has got to £8,000 now, but feeling that I've done some good. The research I've been shown and been able to film at the centres has been absolutely brilliant."

People can donate to Matt's trek via www.whereswallace.org, which carries messages of support from the likes of boxer David Haye and comedian Stephen Merchant.

New housing plan for former troubled site

THE future of a former housing site on a Northampton estate, which was once home to one of the town's most troubled blocks of flats, should be decided later this month.

Northampton Borough Council emptied Robinson House in Burrows Court, Lumbertubs, in September 2008 after new tenants refused to move in because of the building's reputation for crime and anti-social behaviour problems.

The demolition of the building has since been carried out, and Northampton Borough Council's planning committee is now due to decide whether plans to build 17 new affordable homes on the site should be approved.

In a report which will be seen by the council's planning committee later this month, council planning officer Ben Clarke said the development would help to improve the area.

He said: "The proposed development represents the effective re-use of the former Robin-

son House site and would provide a source of affordable accommodation within the town.

"Furthermore, the proposed development is an acceptable design and would not lead to an adverse impact upon the amenities of surrounding properties."

All of the tenants who would move into the new houses would come from the council's housing list.

A final decision on whether the scheme should go ahead will be made by the planning committee on January 10.

Back in 2008, the council revealed plans to empty Robinson House and convert the building into a shelter for homeless people.

But the plan was so unpopular with people living nearby that a campaign against it made it all the way to the High Court before the scheme was eventually scrapped.

The shelter for the homeless which had been planned for Robinson House is now being built in The Mounts, close to the police station and magistrates' court.

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Argos has confirmed the closure of its Abington Street store, and Hawkins Bazaar has gone into administration

Yet another blow for the high street

RETAIL giant Argos will close its Abington Street store it was confirmed, as toy store Hawkin's Bazaar announced it was going into administration.

The blow comes after many retailers recorded strong trading during the Boxing Day sales nationally.

It concludes a tough month for the town centre which has also seen Jane Norman finally close its doors in Abington Street, months after announcing its closure, and the loss of ShakeAway in the Grosvenor Centre, which blamed 'unreasonable rent' for the decision.

Novelty gift shop Hawkin's Bazaar in Market Walk advertised its closing down sale after parent company Tobar Group announced its intention to appoint administrators following low sales. Peter Saville, from restructuring firm

Zolfo Cooper, which is lined up to take on the administration of Hawkin's Bazaar, said: "In common with many retailers, the group has experienced exceptionally challenging trading conditions."

"We will be working to ensure the best possible outcomes regarding preservation of jobs, value of the business and returns to creditors."

Argos opened in Abington Street in 2005 following the closure of catalogue chain outlet Index.

The chain still has stores in St Peters Square and at the Sixfields Retail Park. A spokesman for Argos said: "Argos will not be renewing the lease on its store in Abington Street which will close on Friday January 20, 2012."

"Argos is exploring alternative working opportunities for the affected employees at this store wherever possible."

Police name victim of Christmas crash

POLICE have named the victim of a fatal car crash in Derbyshire which claimed the life of a man from Duston two days after Christmas.

Malcolm Brown, aged 62, of Quantock Crescent, died when the X-Type Jaguar he was driving home along the A50 in Staffordshire left the road and crashed into a tree at about 4.45pm on Tuesday, December 27.

An ambulance and two emergency doctors were called to the

scene after a number of drivers who saw the crash called 999. But paramedics from the West Midlands Ambulance Service said doctors could do nothing to save the Mr Brown.

A spokesman for the police force said: "The collision involved a X-Type Jaguar car which left the carriageway and collided with a tree."

"The driver of the Jaguar, a 62-year-old man from Northamptonshire, sustained serious injuries and died at the scene."

'One station will close'

LONDON Underground bosses have warned a key underground station will have to close if the high-speed rail link between London and Birmingham goes ahead. The Government's decision on the controversial HS2 project, which will cut through the south Northamptonshire countryside, is expected in January. This week, Transport for London's deputy chairman, Daniel Moylan, said unless an expansion project was undertaken, then Euston, where train services to Northampton run from, would have to close down during peak times to deal with the extra influx of passengers, which would undermine HS2's intended time-saving benefits.

Tickets go on sale

TICKETS are already on sale for next year's Silverstone Classic racing festival. The annual event will run from July 20 to 22, and a 10 per cent discount is available for people who book tickets at www.silverstoneclassic.com before March 31. As well as the usual classic car displays, auction, retail village, demonstrations, air displays and funfair, this year's event will feature performances from Mike and the Mechanics and Adam Ant. Race enthusiasts can also enjoy historic grids, including special celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the MGB, AC Cobra, Lotus Elan, Triumph Spitfire and Ford Cortina.

Prices have changed

PRICES for activities at Daventry Leisure Centre have gone up. The changes, the first since 2009, are intended to bring the centre in line with nearby leisure providers. Daventry Active Ltd has said the cost of an adult swim has gone up from £3.45 to £3.55 per session, and the cost of hiring a badminton court has increased from £7.95 to £8.75. The cost of hiring the whole sports hall is now £55 per hour from £50, and the hire of the whole pool has increased from £60 to £75 per hour. Junior swimming currently costs £1 per session, but this will change to £2.20 from April 1.



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Celebrating 36 years

AN INDIAN restaurant will celebrate trading in Northampton town centre for 36 years with a Bollywood themed charity dinner. The Royal Bengal will host "India on a Plate" on Tuesday January 10, to raise money for The Stroke Association and Parkinson's UK. Along with a three-course meal, Bollywood dancers and close up magician Steven Short will entertain guests. Tickets cost £12.50 with £5 donated to charity. For more information, contact the restaurant on Northampton 638617.

Learn to prune trees

A PRUNING fruit trees workshop will be held at Bay Tree Cottage, Maidford Road, Farthingstone, near Towcester, on Thursday, January 26. People who attend the half day work shop will learn how to prune and care for fruit trees to ensure they remain healthy and yield maximum crops. The workshop costs £25. To book or for more information, call 01327 361 720 or 07909 966806.

Fun day for families

A NEW care agency will host a fund-raising event in the new year. Abuse Care Northants is organising a family fun day at Wootton Community Centre, in Curtlee Hill, Wootton, on February 18 from 2pm until 9pm. The event will raise money for charities the Northamptonshire Carers Association and MIND. The care agency is based at Becketts House in Billing Road, Northampton. For details visit www.abacus-carenorthants.co.uk

Appeal helps 850 elderly

MORE than 850 vulnerable elderly people have been helped by the Surviving Winter Northamptonshire campaign. The appeal, organised by charity the Northamptonshire Community Foundation, has raised more than £3,000 so far to help people stay warm and healthy during the cold winter months. To donate visit www.ncf.uk.com and click on the Donate Surviving Winter link, or text FUEL11 £5 to 70070.



PCSO Paul Hurst marks the mobile phone of Martin Cahill

Security marks for Xmas gifts

RESIDENTS in Earls Barton had their Christmas presents security marked by police officers and PCSOs last week.

Police marked bikes, mobile phones, iPods, hand-held games consoles and MP3 players and then added the items to the Immobilise database.

It means property can be returned should it be lost or stolen and then recovered by the police.

Officers also gave out free bicycle alarms, child activity kits and crime prevention booklets and advised owners of iPhones, iPods, iPad or other Apple Mac gadgets how to install the "Find My iPhone" feature which helps in recovering the device should it be stolen or lost.

£300k cost of films in our libraries

IN JUST two years, Northamptonshire County Council spent almost £360,000 on DVDs for the county's libraries, latest figures have revealed.

Details released by the county council show the authority spent £194,016 on DVDs in the financial year 2009/10 and £165,532 in 2010/11.

The total bill of almost £360,000 has been condemned by members of the opposition Liberal Democrat party at County Hall, who have said the authority should cut back on the amount spent on films in light of the major cut-backs proposed by the authority.

The deputy leader of the opposition, Councillor Chris Stanbra (*Lib Dem, Danesholme*) said: "I think it's fine that libraries rent out DVDs as a sideline to loaning books, but books are the main business they're in and I would really have expected a large sum of money like this to have been spent on books."

In its budget plans last year, the council suggested closing eight li-

braries, but they were given a last minute reprieve. However, in its latest budget proposals, the council has said savings of £290,000 will have to be made from the library service in 2013/14 and a further £790,000 in 2014/15.

Councillor Stanbra said: "If it's a choice between having a library that has books and DVDs to loan out or not having a library at all, they should concentrate on books, and if that means having fewer DVDs that's fine with me."

There are 36 libraries across Northamptonshire and copies of the same film are often bought for several libraries to make sure they are available to all the county's residents. The DVDs are rented out for £2 a week or £3.50 for two weeks.

A county council spokesman said: "Our libraries aren't just about books and in order to make sure our customers have access to the latest DVD releases we regularly update our stock."

A final decision on the council's budget plans will be made in February.

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MBE for director

A NORTHAMPTON man was recognised with an MBE for his services to construction exports.

Keith Lambourne (right), director of export at ACO International, said: "It's an honour to receive the accolade. It's also really nice that it's come right at the end of my career. I should have retired in July of this year but I am working another year and may work more than that."

Mr Lambourne, aged 65, who lives with his wife Barbara in Watermeadow, helped to found the company, which carries out surface water drainage, in 1991.

The chief executive behind the hugely successful Compare the Meerkat advertising campaign said he was also "overwhelmed" to receive a CBE.

Peter Winslow, who lives in Courteenhall with his wife, Jan, has been honoured for his contribution to financial services.

The award celebrates Mr Winslow's leadership of the Peterborough-based BGL Group for more than 14 years. The group provides consumer insurance services, including the comparethemarket.com brand.

Former coroner Rodney Corner has received an MBE for services to the coroners' system. Mr Corner, of Moreton Pinkney, retired in April this year after 35 years as coroner for Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire.

Mr Corner, who was president of the Coroners' Society of England and Wales in 1998, became coroner for Milton Keynes in 1976.



Honoured by their work in

THE woman who resurrected the Northampton Carnival more than six years ago has been recognised by the Queen for her services to the local community.

Morcea Walker said she was unable to believe it when she found out she would be honoured with an MBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours List.

The 62-year-old, who is married with three children and lives in The Arbours, Northampton, was awarded the accolade for her services to the community in Northamptonshire.

She said: "It was an absolute shock. The work in the community and with young people is something I have always done, and I have never done it for recognition."

"The accolade is due to the people, groups and organisations who have enabled me to carry out the work. Without them I wouldn't have been able to do it."

Mrs Walker was born in Jamaica and moved to England when she was nine years old, before settling in Northampton in 1973.

She was a founder member of the Northampton West Indies Parents' Association, and was heavily involved with the Northants Black History Association.

Mrs Walker was awarded an honorary degree from The University of Northampton in 2008 for her outstanding contribution to education and training in Northamptonshire, and as a leading member of the African Caribbean community.

community.

She said: "I work in the community because I love it and I want to see the difference it makes."

"My work has been a kaleidoscope of activity. I haven't got a favourite moment but I love working with young people."

Mrs Walker resurrected the Northampton Carnival in 2005.

She said: "I just couldn't understand why there wasn't a carnival in the town, but there were ones in surrounding areas. It was a very exciting return for it that year. I wanted something special for the community."

She added: "The core of the carnival is the community working together and it involves a mix of ages, groups, organisations and communities. The carnival belongs to the people."

Mrs Walker is currently the chairwoman of governors at Stimpson Avenue Primary School in Abington, and has been a governor at Northampton School for Boys since 1988.

■ A MEDICAL advisor for Northamptonshire Police was honoured with an MBE for his continued services to emergency care.

Peter Gordon, a retired GP from Wellingborough, was recognised in the New Year's Honours List for more than 30 years of service.

He said: "I am totally surprised at the honour and can't quite get used to the thought. I am, however, very pleased my long-suffering wife and family are delighted and now also have some recognition for the support they have given me

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Queen for community



over the years."

In 1976 Dr Gordon and Dr Alan Sutton from Roade set up the Northants GP Accident Scheme at the request of Northamptonshire Ambulance Controllers.

Dr Gordon, who retired from Redwell Medical Centre in Wellingborough in 2009 after more than 30 years in practice, still works as medical advisor and forensic examiner for the county's police force.

He has been in the role for 16 years, and has worked in the force for 26 years.

His job is to allow liaison between police and ambulance service personnel in certain circumstances such as road traffic collisions which might involve abuse of alcohol or drugs.

Deputy Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police Suzanne Davenport said: "Dr Gordon has served Northamptonshire Police and the people of the county to the very highest standard, often going above



Dr Peter Gordon, who was awarded an MBE, and Morcea Walker, top, also now an MBE

and beyond the call of duty.

"I would like to congratulate Dr Gordon on behalf of Northamptonshire Police for this very well-deserved achievement."

In 2009, Dr Gordon was awarded a commendation for bravery for rescuing a man from a burning lorry following an incident on the A14.

Award for former Olympic doctor

A SILVERSTONE doctor who founded the village surgery in 1965, and has served as team doctor for the Olympic sailing team, has been awarded an OBE for services to sailing.

Dr Frank Newton, aged 82, is well-known in the village, where he practised until his retirement in 1989.

He said he was surprised to hear he had received an honour, and credited it to the support of his wife and others, saying: "Whatever one does you are never doing it by yourself. In any sport you're doing

it as part of a group of other people, so this just reflects a whole lot of other people's efforts in so many ways."

A keen sailor, Mr Newton, of Cattle End, began sailing Olympic class boats in the mid-1960s. He served as team doctor for the Olympic sailing team in Germany in 1972, and again in Canada in 1976. In 1974 the father of two, who also has two grandchildren, started the sports injury clinic at Northampton General Hospital, which he ran for 22 years.



MBE for first Asian magistrate

THE MAN who became the first Asian magistrate in Northampton more than 35 years ago has been recognised for serv-

ices to the community.

Akram Zaman, JP, was awarded an MBE for services to the community.

Mr Zaman, who held

the post at Northampton Magistrates' Court from 1974 until 10 years ago, said: "It's an honour and I am delighted."

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New flats may not go ahead

PLANS to build a block of retirement flats on the outskirts of Northampton could be blocked because the development would provide no public spaces or affordable housing.

Plans to build 50 retirement flats in Wellingborough Road, Weston Favell, were revealed by developers McCarthy and Stone in July.

The new homes would be next to an Aldi supermarket which has been built on the site of a former car showroom.

But officials from Northampton Borough Council said planning permission for the development should be turned down because McCarthy and Stone has claimed providing the amount of affordable housing and public open space the council wants would make it "unviable".

In documents which will be seen by the council's planning committee in January, planning of-



A new block of retirement flats proposed for land near the new Aldi store in Wellingborough Road are being objected to by planners

ficer Ben Clarke said McCarthy and Stone could pay to provide the affordable housing and areas of open space elsewhere in the town.

But as the company said that cost would make the scheme "unviable", he recommended the plans should be turned down.

He said: "On account of it not having proved possible to agree a figure for the provision of affordable housing and open space, it is considered the proposed development would fail to secure adequate mitigation in the form of

affordable housing and open space facilities that are fairly and reasonably related in scale to the development to comply with the requirements of national and local planning policies."

It is expected negotiations with McCarthy and Stone about the provision of open space and affordable housing will continue over the coming week.

A final decision on whether the development should be allowed to go ahead will then be made by the council's planning committee on January 10.

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Council calls for a re-think

A PARISH council has requested Northampton Borough Council reconsider an application to expand Tesco's Mereway store by 38 per cent after questioning the legality of its decision to approve the scheme.

The borough council initially refused Tesco's application in October following concerns from residents about proposals to move the dotcom home delivery access to Sandhurst Road and to widen the entrance in Clannell Road.

But after the plans were thrown out, Tesco planners moved the dotcom entrance back to Mereway and shifted the Clannell Road junction further west, where fewer residents would be affected. The resubmitted plans were subsequently approved on November 15.

But Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council believes the approval did not fol-

low correct procedure as the supermarket giant did not receive a decision notice after the initial rejection.

Chairman Jonathan Nunn said: "We were pleased to see Tesco move the proposed entrance in Clannell Road because it bothered a lot of people where it was. But where they have moved it to is still a problem for some people.

"We don't think there would have been a repeat of the environmental impact assessment for the new entrance therefore this was something that needed to be addressed."

A borough council spokesperson said: "Everyone has the right to submit their views to the committee with any statement to support or oppose a planning application. In this instance the committee felt that sufficient alterations had been made to address the concerns the committee had about the Tesco's proposals having a detrimental effect on the local community."

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A challenging year for Chris

A NORTHAMPTON man is preparing to take on the first of a dozen challenges this year as he aims to raise £2,012 for The Alzheimer's Society.

Chris Borderick, from Kingsthorpe, whose 70-year-old father-in-law was diagnosed with the condition two years ago, hopes to hit his target for the charity through his "12 in '12" challenge.

Running and fitness enthusiast, Mr Borderick, aged 46, has already raised more than £880 ahead of his first event, the Rough 'n' Tumble in Wiltshire.

He said: "My father-in-law, Dick, has Alzheimer's disease and was diagnosed about two years ago. He's now at the point where he has only a fleeting recognition of his family members and I know how hard this has been for my wife, Clare, as well as our children."

Having already completed three marathons and half-marathons, Mr Borderick hopes taking on a more unusual challenge - which includes a number of off-road and hill race events - will inspire people to sponsor him.

He said: "My friends and family are really used to me taking part in running events, so I was worried that just taking part in the Brighton Marathon alone would not be enough to convince people to pledge money to my cause."

"That's why I've decided to take part in an endurance race each month through 2012, with the aim of raising £2,012 for Alzheimer's Society as a tribute to my father-in-law."

Events on Mr Borderick's challenge calendar include the ominous-sounding Black Death Run, The Grizzly, and the



Survival of the Fittest, a 10km obstacle course in Nottingham.

The father-of-two, from Briscoe Close, was positive about his chances of completing the challenge: "I think I'll do it. I don't think I'm going to be hitting too many personal bests. Some of the events are more set up for personal worsts."

The Alzheimer's Society supports people to live well with dementia and funds research to find a cure.

Mr Borderick, a project manager, said: "The target of £2,012 will provide 20 brain scans to improve early diagnosis or support for 10,000 families."

Mr Borderick can be sponsored at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Borders12in12>

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Commuters blast rise in rail fares

TRAIN users in Northampton have condemned the latest rail fare rises, after it emerged commuters in the county were now paying almost 10 times more than many European counterparts.

City workers who travel between Northampton and London have had their season ticket prices increased by almost seven per cent, rising from £4,448 to £4,756, one of the steepest increases in the country.

Research revealed by the Campaign for Better Transport has shown that a similar journey in Rome costs Italian season ticket

holders just £336.17, while commuters in Germany and France also pay a fraction of the cost of many UK rail fares.

Shaun Hope, from the Northampton Rail Users Group, said it was now no longer feasible for many people to regularly use the trains.

He said: "These increases have been planned for a while and I am not sure how long these rises will continue for, but for many people it is getting to the point where it is not economically feasible to use the trains to get to London."

"You would think it could not go on forever but then the trains are still busy so perhaps they can keep getting away with it."

He said off-peak travellers were also being hit by changes to their tickets, which will mean they have to wait until after 7pm to travel. Mr Hope said the changes were a further "hidden" price increase.

CBT's public transport campaigner, Sophie Allain, added: "We knew we had some of the most expensive rail fares in Europe, if not the world, but even we were shocked by how much more the UK ticket was in comparison to our European counterparts."

"When the cost of season tickets is so much higher than other European capitals, the Government's fare rises are starting to affect the UK's competitiveness."

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MK match outsells Gardens

SAINTS bosses have revealed the rugby club has now sold more than 18,000 tickets for this month's controversial clash with Irish giants Munster at Milton Keynes.

The Franklin's Gardens club decided to switch the European cup tie to the 22,000 stadium *mk* to pack in more home supporters.

And Saints bosses said they believed around 16,000 Northampton fans had already purchased tickets for the match, with around 2,000 Irish supporters travelling over.

The decision to move the game, which will be played on January 21, was criticised by shops, pubs and businesses in and around the St James area of Northampton.

Chris Wearmouth, communications manager at Frank-

lin's Gardens, said: "It means there will be 5,000 more Saints fans than we would have had to see the game at the Gardens and that is why we made this decision."

"With the Saints going forward this encourages people to come to matches on a week-by-week basis. That is what this is about, growing the club. Hopefully we will be able to see the fruits of that in the next couple of years."

He said the club had also received applications for coach transport from Irish fans, suggestion some may stay in Northampton rather than in Milton Keynes. The club will open bars at Franklin's Gardens on Friday and Saturday, the day of the match.

He added: "Although the venue is not in Northampton, hopefully Northampton will still be the focal point for fans."

Anti-HS2 song tops the chart

AN anti-HS2 song, which has reached the top of a national download chart has been praised by the region's campaigners.

The Oak Tree Lament is about a tree cut down to make way for a high speed rail link and is a call for action against the £32bn high speed rail line the Government wants to build.

In one verse, the band, Dirty Mavis, sing: "In English hills runs a line that kills, leaves my country scarred and raw.

If you love my leaves then shade them please, prepare yourself for war."

Last week two versions of the song reached the number one and two slots on the HMV Download Chart above the official UK chart's number two, *X Factor* winners Little Mix.

The Government was due to give the scheme its final go-ahead before Christmas but earlier last month Transport Secretary Justine Greening announced a delay to any further news until January.

Highest fundraising total for charity



THE Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal is celebrating after raising almost £250,000 in its best ever fund-raising year.

The past three years have been fund-raising records for the charity, and this year – its 10th anniversary year – it has attracted its greatest annual amount of donations to date, taking the total raised by the charity overall to more than £1.3 million.

Crazy Hats founder Glennis Hooper said she couldn't believe the over-

all total was so high, and said: "It has been the best year ever. We have got such a wonderful group of people on board, it's just a great team and it's team effort that's done it."

"I think it's the enthusiasm of the team behind Crazy Hats that inspires people from the community to do things to raise money. We have given a lot of talks this year, it's lovely."

Miss Hooper said: "We hope 2012 is going to be another good year with more projects."

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Disabled parking fee to rise

THE amount of money charged to disabled people for parking permits in Northamptonshire is set to increase from £2 to £10.

Under plans to alter the way the disabled parking scheme is managed, the Government has said local councils can charge up to £10 for new blue badges which are harder to forge than those issued under the current scheme.

It is believed that 41 per cent of councils across the country have decided not to charge the full £10, but the county council's cabinet is due to approve the maximum fee during a meeting on Janu-

ary 10.

Despite the increase in the fee, the change has been broadly welcomed by disabled people in the county.

Robin Hinton is the chair of the users' committee at Northampton Shopmobility and a trustee of the Northampton Door to Door Service.

He said: "Paying £10 for a blue badge that will last three years isn't bad and this is the first increase for almost 30 years, so personally I've got no problem with it."

"The biggest problem we have at the moment is fraud and misuse of the current badges, so if this can make a difference, I'm all for it."

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Historic steam roller returned to its former glory

LESS than three years after being rescued from a council depot where it had been left to rust for decades, a Northampton-built steam roller has been returned to its former glory.

A team of steam enthusiasts from the Northampton & Lamport Railway in Chapel Brampton rescued the remains of the Allchin steam roller from Northampton Borough Council's Westbridge depot in July 2009.

After securing a £50,000 Lottery grant to fund its restoration, the team behind the project unveiled the new-look roller to the public on New Year's Eve.

Kingsthorpe resident Julian Skinner, who has led the project with his wife Sharon, said: "It feels great to see it like this and we know there are a lot of people who have been looking forward to seeing it at its best again."

The 113-year-old roller was used to build miles of roads around Northampton until it was retired in 1954.

It then became a celebrity ve-



hicle, regularly appearing at the front of the town's annual carnival until it was finally left to rust at the council depot during the 1990s.

The roller, which was built by the William Allchin company at the Globe works in Southbridge, Northampton is now the only one of its kind left in the world.

During its restoration, the roller was known by its official name, Allchin Roller 1131. But it has now been renamed "Northampton".

Mrs Skinner said: "It's part of Northampton's heritage, so we didn't want to name it after a person.

"We thought naming it after the town was much more fitting."

About 50 steam enthusiasts visited Lamport on New Year's Eve to see the restored roller.

Among them was Bill Dickens from the national Road Roller Association. He said: "It's a terrific achievement to see it restored to this level in such a short time, it's astounding and the quality of the work is incredible."

The roller will be displayed at steam fairs across the region during the summer and it is hoped it will also lead the town's carnival this year.

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Camp Hill Centre
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Weston Favell Parish Hall
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Favell
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St James Ceva School
Harlestone Road,
Northampton
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Tel: Carrie 07752151751

WEDNESDAY

The Pastures Community Centre
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St Francis Church Hall
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Duston
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Tel: Liz 01604 247407

Overstone Park Golf & Leisure Complex
Woodland Conference Suite,
Billing Lane
Weds 7.30pm
Tel: Ellie 07515573115

Grange Park Community Centre
School Lane, Grange Park
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Tel: Jane 01604 701811

St Johns Ambulance
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The world's last remaining Allchin steam roller is unveiled after her restoration; the team responsible for its transformation (right); the remains of the roller are recovered from Northampton Borough Council's Westbridge depot in 2009 (below left); No 1131 is now called "Northampton" (below centre); leading the Northampton Carnival Parade after its retirement from making roads



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Entertainment

Hannah to take to the O2 stage

A MUSICIAN from Northampton is set to play the biggest gig of her life at the O2 in London later this month after she made it through to the final of one of the UK's largest unsigned singing contests.

Singer songwriter Hannah Faulkner, aged 23, of Far Cotton, has made it through to the final 25 of Open Mic UK and is in with a chance of winning a recording contract plus £30,000 of publicity including a 100-show UK tour.

Ms Faulkner, who was a finalist in Northampton's Got Talent 2010, will be performing in front of a crowd of 3,000 people at the O2 on Saturday, January 21.

The singer said: "I'm really excited about it but I don't think it will hit me that I'm playing at the O2 until I'm there."

"If I win it or not I will still be pleased to play at the O2 as that was one of my ambitions."

"Since Northampton's Got Talent I have probably done more than 150 gigs and I've learnt a lot about what I need to do when I'm on stage."

To get to the national final, Ms

Faulkner had to successfully audition at regional and area finals held at the Bedford Corn Exchange.

The judging panel included Darren Ashford, who has performed with the Black Eyed Peas, Emma Durrant from the Essence Music Agency, Dutch Van Spall from Big Help Management, vocal expert Nicky Newman, David Preston from Cowshed Studio and head of A&R at Future Music Ben Price.

The judges described Ms Faulkner as "vocally very strong" with "lovely tone and expression".

Ms Faulkner, who is a self-taught guitar player, currently works as a human resources and training assistant.

In October, she released her debut album, *Ni Ni*, produced by Harley-Joe Arnold.

The auditions and the final of the Open Mic UK competition have been filmed by Sky and will be put together in a documentary called *The Making of a Star*.

Previous winner of the competition Birdy, aged 15, has had a top 20 album and two hit singles including her version of the Bon Iver classic *Skinny Love*.

6 Since Northampton's Got Talent I have probably done more than 150 gigs and I've learnt a lot about what I need to do when I'm on stage
— Singer songwriter Hannah Faulkner

Hannah Faulkner has made it through to the final of Open Mic UK at the O2 arena



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Entertainment

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Northampton: Just Jake, Kingsley Park WMC.

Northampton: Martin James Lewis, Foundryman's Arms, St James Road.

Northampton: Earth Man Sounds, Jessie from Inspirational Radio, The Crispin, Clare Street, 8pm-late.

Northampton: Tony Gee's disco, Spread Eagle, Wellingborough Road.

Northampton: Steve Clarke disco, Devonshire Club, St James Square, 5pm-8pm*.

THEATRE

Northampton: Open audition for Tom Stoppard's play Rosencranz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Playhouse Theatre, Clare Street, 7.30pm. 01604 711317.

Northampton: Down the Rabbit Hole, Royal & Derngate Underground, 11am and 2.30pm. 01604 624811.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland, Royal stage, 2.15pm and 7.15pm. 01604 624811.

Northampton: Aladdin, Derngate stage, 2pm and 7pm. 01604 624811.

SATURDAY

MUSIC

Northampton: Motown and soul disco, Spread Eagle, Wellingborough Road.

Northampton: Kim Robinson, British Rail Club, St Andrew's Road, 8.30pm.

Northampton: Uncle Tom Cobby, Kingsley Park WMC.

THEATRE

Northampton: Down the Rabbit Hole, Royal & Derngate Underground, 1.30pm and 3.30pm. 01604 624811.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland,

Royal stage, 1.15pm and 5.15pm. 01604 624811.

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FAIRS, SHOWS & SALES

Moulton: Hardy Plant Society with John Sutton - New Herbaceous Perennials, Moulton village hall, Pound Lane, 2pm.

Northampton: New to You sale, Park Square, Kings Heath, 10.30am-1pm.

Road: Flea market, village hall, Bailey Brook Lane, 9am-1pm. 07810 640061.

OTHER

Northampton: Northampton Cyclists' Touring Club, brisk morning ride to SW of town (35 miles). Meet at Welford Road/Brampton Valley Way crossing, 9.30am.

Northampton: Kingfisher Amateur Art Society, Hinton Road community room, Kingsthorpe, 2pm-4pm. 07958 352 362.

Northampton: Northampton Younger Persons' Parkinson's Support Group monthly meeting for ages 65 and under, Queen Adelaide PH, Kingsthorpe village, 10.30am.

Northampton: Chess Point. St John House, 33 Billing Road, 11am-5pm; £2 per visit. 01604 517406*.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Blisworth: Jazzin' Around presents Bill Bailey's All Star Jazz Band, Walnut Tree, Station Road, midday-2.30pm; adm £7.

Chapel Brampton: Acoustic night, Brampton Halt, Pitford Road.

Northampton: Jam session, Crown and Anchor, Victoria Road, 9pm.

Northampton: Acoustic open mic jam session, Sir Pickering Phipps, Welling-

borough Road, 8.30pm*.

Northampton: Acoustic open mic jam session, Fox and Hounds, Harborough Road, 8pm*.

Northampton: Jazz night, The Longboat, Eastfield Road, Duston*.

Northampton: Singalong with keyboard player, Royal Navy and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road. Northampton 620471*.

Northampton: Christal, Kingsley Park WMC, Kingsley Park Terrace.

THEATRE

Northampton: Down the Rabbit Hole, Royal & Derngate Underground, 1.30pm and 3.30pm. 01604 624811.

Northampton: Aladdin, Derngate stage, 1pm and 5pm. 01604 624811.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland, Royal stage, 1.15pm and 5.15pm. 01604 624811.

OTHER

Northampton: Classic Car Meet, 11.30am; also Road Hogs Car Club, 2.30pm, Queen Eleanor Restaurant, Wootton, off A45, 11.30am. 01604 646963.

Northampton: NSG Group. Naturist Club meets in the Northampton area for swimming, sauna, yoga and aqua aerobics; families welcome. 08707 654326*.

Northampton: Quiz, The Rover, Weedon Road, 8pm*.

Northampton: Music and fun quiz, Whitehills PH, Harborough Road*.

Northampton: Rob Benedict's pub quiz, Old White Hart, Cotton End, 7.30pm*.

Northampton: Rob Benedict's pub quiz, The Abington, Wellingborough Road*.

Northampton: Quiz night, Barratts Club, Kingsthorpe Road*.

Northampton: General knowledge

quiz, The Artizan, Artizan Road, 8.15pm*.

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Chapel Brampton: Northampton and Lamport Railway, Pitsford Road. Trains running from 11.45am Sundays. 01604 820327*.

MONDAY

MUSIC

Northampton: Karaoke, Golden Horse, Southampton Road, 4pm-7pm*.

Northampton: Open mic, Lamplighter, Overstone Road, 9pm.

OTHER

Northampton: Quiz, The Romany, Trinity Avenue, 8pm*.

Northampton: Rob Benedict's pub quiz, Charles Bradlaugh, Earl Street, 8pm*.

Northampton: Open Circle, Spiritualist Church, 89 St Michael's Road, 7.30pm.

Northampton: Chatterbox social group, Doulton House, 7 Cattlemarket Road, 10.30am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-3.30pm*.

Northampton: Northampton Duplicate Bridge, 7.30pm, 16 The Crescent. 01604 630546*.

Northampton: Art group, Abington community centre, Wheatfield Road South, 2pm-4pm. 01604 632048*.

TUESDAY

MUSIC

Abthorpe: Open mic, the New Inn. 01327 860344.

Northampton: Terry Lightfoot Quartet, jazz, Wig & Pen, St Giles Street, 9pm-11pm; free*.

Northampton: Northampton Male Voice Choir meet at Kingsley Park

Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. 01604 753789*.

OTHER

Boughton: Quiz night, Whyte Melville, 8.30pm*.

Broughton: Music quiz night, Fox and Hounds*.

Earls Barton: Quiz, The Old Swan, 9pm*.

Moulton: Netball league, ages 16+, Moulton College. 0113 2781 300*.

Northampton: Postcard Club, NASO Rooms, St Michael's Road, 7.30pm.

Northampton: Drop-in meditation class, Friends' Meeting House, Wellington Street, 7.30pm-9pm. 01604 686778*.

Northampton: Northampton Duplicate Bridge, 7.30pm, 16 The Crescent. 01604 630546*.

Northampton: Quiz, Golden Horse, Southampton Road*.

Northampton: Rob Benedict's pub quiz, White Elephant, near Racecourse, 8.30pm*.

Northampton: Women's Circle, Abington community centre, Wheatfield Road South, 2.30pm-4pm. 01604 404605*.

Sywell: Quiz night, The Horseshoe, 8.30pm*.

Towcester: Towcester Bridge Club, Conservative Club, Watling Street East, 7.30pm-10pm. 01908 551201*.

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC

Northampton: Kingsthorpe Jazz Club presents Chris Parker's Quartet, King Billy, Kingsthorpe village, 8.30pm.

OTHER

Brafield-on-the-Green: Upholstery classes, 3pm-5.30pm and 5.45pm-7.45pm. Also Saturdays 10am-3pm. 07979 200185.

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Entertainment

Silence is golden

Silence is golden and in the case of Michel Hazanavicius's gorgeous black and white silent film *The Artist*, the gold will be a clutch of Oscars, probably including the coveted statuette for Best Picture.

The film charts the rise and fall of a dashing actor against a backdrop of tumultuous change in a bygone era of Hollywood.

Stripped bare of expository dialogue, expensive set pieces and digital trickery, Hazanavicius's love letter to the moving image is tender, romantic and incredibly funny, reminding us that the beating heart of any film is human emotion.

Here, a single lingering glance, underscored by composer Ludovic Bourque's grand orchestration, speaks louder and clearer than reams of impassioned and heartfelt confession.

During the early part of the 20th century, Lillian Gish and Greta Garbo became the queens of the silver screen in the golden age of silent movies.

Then in 1927, *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson changed movie-making forever by successfully combining images and sound. Within a decade, the death knell was sounded forever on silents.

Writer-director Hazanavicius steps back in time to that pivotal year, when handsome and romantically unattached screen idol George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) is setting hearts aflutter. His films are greeted with rapturous applause and



sell-out crowds. Female fans clamour for his autograph.

On the set of his latest production, George meets aspiring starlet Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo) and he is smitten.

With the advent of sound, George's fortunes wane and Peppy's star ascends into the stratosphere to the delight of cigar-smoking studio boss Zimmer (John Goodman).

Fame is fickle and George and his trusty manservant Clifton (James Cromwell) fall on painfully hard times, with no obvious end to their misery.

The Artist replicates film-making techniques of the past to create a warm, witty and swoonsome romance that will charm and beguile modern audiences.

Dujardin is a debonair and charismatic

leading man and there is simmering screen chemistry with the luminous Bejo.

George's performing dog scene-steals with tail-wagging gusto, proving that man's best friend is also his fiercest competition for the limelight.

Hazanavicius plants his tongue firmly in cheek for Goodman's scenes, whose potty-mouthed rages as a Hollywood head honcho are reduced to censored snippets of dialogue on title cards.

The film-maker uses sound sparingly in a nightmare sequence and he demonstrates directorial brio with a climactic scene involving a gunshot.

A rousing, toe-tapping finale, which nods and winks playfully to feel-good cinema of the 1930s, ensures we are grinning with glee when the end credits roll.



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Tuesday: STJ	7.00-8.00	Solo Freestyle Dance Mix
Thursday: CC	7.15-8.45 8.30-10.00	Starters: Foxtrot, Cha Cha Next Steps 2: Technique
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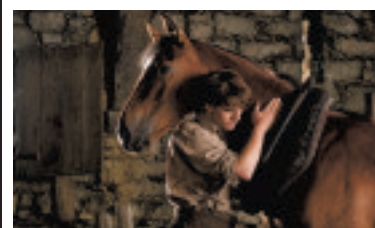
The Iron Lady **20-26 Jan**

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Thursday, January 5, 2012

ROADTEST: Citroen DS4 DSport THP 200

A premium player

FIRST, a neighbour wandered onto the drive for a closer inspection. Then a young (male) passenger in a passing Transit on the M25 nearly twisted his neck for a longer look as he passed in a white blur.

Yes, the new DS4 is no shrinking violet. Instead it's Citroen's second model in a DS badged line up that will provide a haute couture alternative to its more mass market models.

First came the little DS3 and it has proved a big sales success, combining catwalk looks with the sort of spirited driving appeal we all thought Citroen had forgotten about. It also gave its bigger,

newer DS4 something to live up to. There's no question the newcomer works triumphantly in the style stakes; a slightly tall SUV stance combining with bulg-

es and curves to make a different and distinctive addition to anyone's driveway.

Practicality has suffered in the metamorphosis from plain Jane C4 to designer led DS4. Hiding the back door handles at the rear of the window makes for a coupe-like lack of visible hardware but leaves a jutting panel ready to clonk an unwary nut.

The rear windows don't wind down (there's nowhere for them to go in the contoured recesses of the bodywork), making this a car to avoid if you carry children who fight car sickness with loads of fresh air.

There's actually room enough for growing youngsters in the rear but longer legged adults will find conditions cramped behind similarly limbed grown ups in the front.

But the best seats are reserved for those up front, where an expensive looking and nicely crafted dashboard dominates proceedings. Want to see a bit more sky? Then slide the panel carrying the sunvisors into the roof lining

and you'll be able to count the stars or duck the aircraft coming into land at Heathrow.

Should the driver tire of instruments lit by a gentle cream light, a push on a dash mounted button turns things vivid blue by degrees. Yes, a lot of Gallic flair is on parade inside the DS4.

Quite a lot remains when you fire up the engine; in this top line model it's a potent petrol powered version, although Citroen expects more diesel than petrol sales of its DS4 range, which starts at £18,150 for a petrol VTi 120 (the cheapest diesel costs £19,445).

Anyway, the 197 horses in the test car were ever eager to perform, pulling like Derby winners at the mere twitch of a right toe, the engine all the while making properly sporty noises.

Driven with less verve (like on a slow crawl home on the M11) it also sipped fuel, showing 49mpg for the journey (and 44mpg overall for its 800 miles in my hands).

A smooth road shows the DS4 at its best, when the big alloy wheels and wide tyres grip as well as

they look. On lesser surfaces there's a constant niggling jiggle to the ride that takes the shine off the journey.

Best then to slow down and enjoy a sound system boosted by a £500 Denon upgrade, stay on track with the satellite navigation system (£750), wonder as the headlamps curve themselves round corners (£690) or relax in the Habana Club leather and heated seats (£590).

Notice a touch of German premium car options fever? Well, the new (and French) DS4 has the class to carry it off.

FACTFILE

CAR: Citroen DS4 DSport THP 200

PRICE: £23,650

DRIVETRAIN: 1.6 litre 197bhp petrol engine, 6-speed gearbox

PERFORMANCE: Top speed 146mph 0-62mph 8.5 seconds

ECONOMY: Euro average 44.1mpg CO2 149g/km road tax £130

SIZE: 4275mm long 1810mm wide

SAFETY: EuroNCAP 5 stars

INSURANCE: Group 31

WARRANTY: Three years or 60,000 miles



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Births



It's a girl!

Emily Joan Orton

Ellen & Jim are pleased to announce from Sydney the arrival on New Years Eve of Emily Joan a Lovely Grand Daughter to our parents back home.

GREEN

(nee Robinson)

Congratulations Jamie and Kim on the birth of your beautiful Daughter our gorgeous Granddaughter Sophia, born Christmas Eve.

Well done Kim. Lots of love to all three of you. From Mum, Chris and Billy-rae xxx



18th Birthday



Gabriella MORIARTY

Happy 18th Birthday Gabriella.

Health and happiness always.

Lots of love, Nan and Auntie Julie. x x

40th Birthday



MCGUINNESS

Tracy (Nee Wilkie)

To a wonderful Daughter
 Happy 40th birthday Tracy
 Love Mum, Dad, Scott, Farrah, Paris,
 Donna, Glen, Pete
 x x x x x x x

60th Birthday

Tom BERGIN
 60 Today!
 Lots of love
 Linda, Paul, Martin,
 Darren, Jodie and
 Grandchildren,
 Chelsey, Paul,
 Connor, Emma,
 Summer and Skye
 xxx



Spring Wedding Show

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60th Birthday

Jane MOORE

(Nee Robinson)
 (pic: Going on 21!)
 Happy 60th Birthday!

As we always say
 "Lost" of love
 Mick, Mum Betty,
 Alex & Joanne,
 Tim & Sophia,
 Joanna & Matt,
 Peter & Lesley
 "Purple Patch Coming"
 ~xxx~



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Obituaries

PARKER — (nee Anderson) Joan Annie. Passed away 30th December at Burlington Court. Loving Mother of Jan, Grandmother of Simon and Tim and Great Grandmother of Nicholas, Aimee, Adam and Millie. Rest In Peace.

Engagements

CHAMBERS and DICKENS

Gerry and Stewart would like to announce their Daughter Jemma's Engagement on Christmas day to Chris. So pleased for you both. Health, Happiness and love.

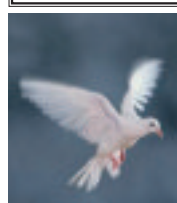
Mum, Dad and Gavin, Cassie
 xxx



Obituaries

EVERETT Frances 'Eva'

Passed away in Northampton General Hospital on Friday 30th December 2011, aged 90 years. At rest now after a brave fight. Reunited with Bowie, Jack and her beloved Son Robert, who passed away 11 weeks ago. Much loved Mum of Anne and Jane. Will be sadly missed by her grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends. God Bless. Funeral arrangements to follow.



ASPLIN

Maurice Turland

On 22nd December, aged 81, suddenly but peacefully, at NGH. Dear Husband of Marjorie. Devoted Father of Claire and Paul, Father-in-law of Liam and very proud Grandad of Finn and Maria. Will be sadly missed.

The Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday 11th January at 3.30pm at The Chapel of The Counties Crematorium, Milton. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for British Heart Foundation, may be sent to Kevin Matthews Funeral Directors, 1-5 Balmoral Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6LA.

BOTTRILL

Roger John Died suddenly December 29th. Very special and loved Husband of Jackie. Adored Father of Scott, Lee and Rachel. Loved Father-in-law, Grandad, Brother, Brother-in-law and Uncle. What will we do without you.

xxxxx



HARMON

Milly. Passed peacefully away on 29th December 2011. A much loved Mum to Denise and David, Mark and Sharon. Nan to Lisa, Christopher, Steven and Thomas. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for Multiple Sclerosis Society. All enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, Banbury. Tel: 01295 272207.



DEWISON Edna

Fell asleep 23rd December. A very sad loss for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who all loved her dearly. So many beautiful memories to treasure. xxx

HARRISON — Rene (nee Worth). A loving Sister of Connie and Norman and dearest Aunt. Good Night and God Bless.

Obituaries

HOLLAND Tracey

Age 47. Passed away on 28th December. Dearly loved Daughter of Judy and Dave. Now with her soul mate Pete forever.

No one sees a broken heart, that hides behind a smile. No one knows the emptiness, that stays with us all the while. Your smile is gone forever, your hand we cannot touch. But we will never lose the memory, of the one we love so much.

God Bless Trace, love you always
 Mum, Dad, Andy, Craig, Yvonne, Becky, Rob, Philip, Nicola and Holly xx

JOHNSON — Jane. We loved you as a Mum and you gave us the same love back, you have left a big hole in our hearts. God bless you Ann, Mark, Russell, Pat and Family xxx.

JONES — Nigel Good Night Nigel. Peace at last. Time's I was your taxi could not be early I could not be late, but you were still my mate. Don't forget your fishing rod. Always remembered. Paul, Sandra, Joy and James

MCFARLANE (Nee Martin) Janet

Passed away 30/12/2011. My Sister's heart stopped beating, her gentle body's at rest. God broke my heart to prove to me he only takes the best. I'll miss you Sis, Goodbye. xxx Your loving Brother Gray xxx

MCFARLANE (Nee Martin) Janet

Passed away DEC 30th 2011. Jan I would give the world to have you back for just one day, to see your lovely kind face again. You were my best Friend, my Wife. You were one in a million. I miss you so much sweetheart and I don't know how I am going to live without you. Goodnight and God bless you darling. All my love, your broken hearted Husband Richard xxxxxxxx

MCFARLANE (Nee Martin) Janet

Mum, the Lord called his angel home on DEC 30th 2011. "Memory is a lovely lane where hearts are ever true, a lane I so travel down because it leads to you." She was a loving Mum to Matthew and Richard and their Partners Michelle and Patricia. She was a devoted Nanny to Billy, Ronan and Conor. Mum May God hold you in the Palm of his hand until we meet again. Mum, you will be so sadly missed. Goodnight, God bless xxx

Obituaries

ROBERTS Les

Passed away at N.G.H on 30th December 2011 aged 77 years. Husband of Jan. Loving Father to Melissa & Son-in-law Russ and Grandfather to his lovely girls Amie and Kally. Forever in our hearts xxx

ROWLAND George

aged 96 years. Died peacefully at Boughton Lodge Care Home on Wednesday 21st December 2011

Re-united with Wife Olwen & Daughter Jean. Sadly missed by John & Rita George & Ann Olwen & Al Robert & Tracy. A proud Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather

Founder member & past President of Northants Dog Training Club

'Now at Peace'

Funeral will take place at Counties Crematorium Milton at 2pm Friday 6th January 2012. Family flowers only but donations if desired cheques made payable to Royal British Legion c/o Co-operative Funeral Care, Barrack Road

ROWLAND — George (Pappy). Loving Pap to Alex, Karen, Denise, Tony and Nigel. Will always be loved and remembered.

SLINN — Derek. Passed away 21/12/11. Much loved Brother of Josie and Brother in Law of Terry. Will be sadly missed. Reunited with Mum and Dad. Good night Derek, God Bless xx

SLINN — Derek. Beloved Cousin of Janet and Dave, Uncle to Julie, Alana and Hayley. R.I.P

SLINN — Derek. Much loved Uncle to Darren, Charlotte, Harry and Sam, Lorraine, Sim and Emily. Forever in our hearts xxx



Birthdays

Hannah HALLETT 03/01/2012

To my Granddaughter. Happy Birthday. 10 years old today. lots of love Nanny xxx



Obituaries

SPENCE Richard (Dick)

Beloved Brother of Pat, Uncle of Gemma. Sadly lost on 30th December 2011.

You will always be loved and remembered with smiles and missed so greatly.

All our love always Pat, Bob and Gemma. x x x



SPENCE Richard

Passed away 30th December 2011.

Much loved Brother of Sally and Brother in Law of Steve.

He will be sadly missed.

TINSLEY — Alan Passed away suddenly on Tuesday 13th December. Sadly missed by Cathy and all his family. The Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday 3rd January at 11am at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Abington, followed by cremation. No flowers please but donations for the RNLI or The Royal British Legion may be sent to B. Hollowell and Son, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2JN.

UPHAM — Della Passed away on 26th December at N.G.H. We will miss her and always love her. Forever in our hearts. Daughter Sharon and Grandson Harris.

WILLIAMS — Roseann. Passed away 20th December. Very dear friend of Ann. God Bless. Love Ann, Colin, Duane, Floyd and Sally xxxxx

In Memoriam

BAKER — David Remembered by us all in 1066.

BAXTER

Roger

31/12/2010

Treasured memories of a very special man who is always in our thoughts. Devoted Husband to Myra. Dear Dad to Paul and Wendy, Wendy and Kevin, Jane and Chris. Pap to Craig, Laura, Rachel and Thomas. Pappy to Maisie. We will love and miss you always. God Bless. xxx

BRINKLOW — Les Died 01/01/2005. Darling Husband, Dad and Pap. In life I loved you dearly. In death I love you still. In my heart you hold a place, no-one can ever fill. Love forever. Peggy and Family.

In Memoriam

KING Vic

Passed away December 31st 2010. Dearly loved Husband of June. I've lost my life's companion, a life linked with my own. No one knows how much I miss you as I journey on alone. God Bless.

KING Vic

Passed away December 31st 2010. We love and miss you everyday Dad. Always loved never forgotten. Love Hayley, Nigel and family xxxxxx

MAULE Vera

Passed away December 31st 1994. Treasured memories of our dear Mum. Always remembered. Never forgotten.

God bless you Mum. Love Ian and the late Delia x x

MAULE Vera

Dear Nan to Craig and Sarah. In our memories and sadly missed now and always x x

MAULE — Vera. A very dear Nan to Nick and Adrian. You were so gentle, you were so kind such wonderful memories, you left behind.

MAULE Vera

Greatly missed and always in my thoughts x Love Serena x

MAULE — Vera A very special Nan who is sadly missed by Mark, Sam and Abigail. xxx

ROAN Peggy Gerry

3.1.07 1.3.04

Gone from our home those smiling faces. Their cheerful happy ways. The hearts that won so many friends in Bygone happy days. Lonely is the home without you. Life to us is not the same. All the world would be like Heaven. If we could have you both back again. Rest in peace.

From your loving Children Michelle, Mike, Helen & Families



ROBERTS (Denton)

Fond memories of Bill. Died January 1st 1982.

Loving Husband, Dad and Pappy. Never forgotten.

Loving Wife Chriss & family.

In Memoriam

RODDIS June Beryl (Nee Clegg)

Passed over December 31st 2008. Dear Wife, Mother, Grandmother

They say that times a healer. But we are not so sure. Everyday we think of you. We miss you more and more.

Your loving Family John, Michelle, Mark, Richard, Diane, and all the Grandchildren xxx

SUSAN MARY ADHEMAR (Fruish)

10.03.1949 - 29.12.2005

A beautiful, kind and loving Wife of Rodney and Mother to Heather, Christopher and Paul. Grandchildren Shannon, Andrew and April. Lucy, William and Eve Susan. Remembered by all her family.

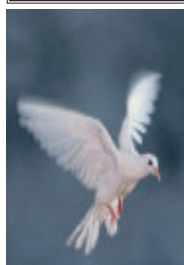
Why, when the sky is a radiant blue. Do you come so strongly into my mind. So close to me, next to me. But not visible. As if through a glass darkly. Never leave me. Nor I you.

WHITE Rita Lucy

1st Anniversary 30-12-10.

This day is remembered and quietly kept. No words are needed, we shall never forget. For those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near. So loved, so missed and so very dear.

Lots of love always, your loving Husband Dick, Lynn, Julie, Tracey and Partners, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxx



Birthday Memories

BIRKS Kerry-Ann

Remembering you on your 21st Birthday. As you were, you will always be, someone very special in our memory.

With love from all the family xx

Thompson-Pettit Gareth

A card we cannot send, a present we cannot give. But our love is yours forever, each day for as long as we live. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Richard and Katrina, Krystal and Kieran xxxxxx

Thinking of you today on your 33rd Birthday. Lots of love Grandad, Nan and Donna xxx



WEBSTER Thomas Lee

1.1.1991 - 23.6.2011.

Today we should be celebrating your 21st Birthday, but all we have are memories, heartache and tears. We miss you more everyday. Just to see that happy, beautiful smile, just one more time. Mum, Dad, Dani, Corrine and Nan xxxxxx

Tom Tom Your cuddles were like a big, soft teddy bear. Love Jessica x

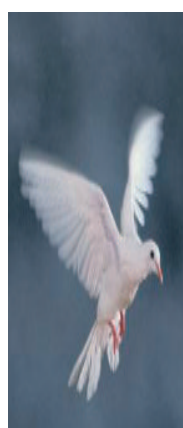
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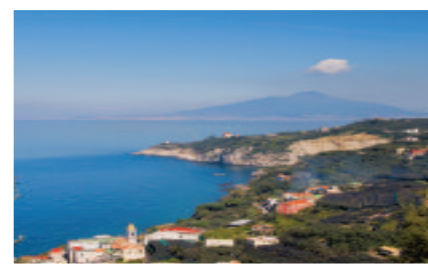
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For an informal discussion on the above posts, please contact Peter Wells, Deputy Dean on 01604 892018 or by email peter.wells@northampton.ac.uk

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POINT MADE - the Cobblers players celebrate Saido Berahino's crucial goal in Monday's 1-1 draw at Shrewsbury Town

PICTURE: KIRSTY EDMONDS

Kelvin keen to extend his stay

DEFENDER Kelvin Langmead has revealed he is desperate to extend his loan spell with the Cobblers so he can put right the wrongs of the first five months of the season.

Langmead is due to return to parent club Peterborough United this week as his initial loan spell has expired, but the experienced centre-back has his heart set on staying at Sixfields to fight to keep Northampton in the football league.

The 26-year-old played a starring role in the Cobblers' 1-1 draw at Shrewsbury on Monday, playing one of his best games for the club, and he wants to work with new boss Aidy Boothroyd, who he says has brought a new-found enthusiasm to the Sixfields dressing room.

"I have been here for most of this season and we are where we are in the table, and I certainly don't want to walk away from that," said Langmead.

"I was part of the team that got us there and I want to be part of the team that gets us out of here.

"I'm hoping to stay. Things will obviously have to get sorted out between the two clubs, but hopefully that will get sorted this week.

"A new manager has come in who brings in confidence, who brings in enthusiasm, who brings in all the qualities he has got along with his coaches, and the fans have been brilliant.

"You put that all in the mix and you have got a chance."

Langmead admits confidence is up following the arrival of Boothroyd and the morale-boosting point at the New Meadow this week.

But he has warned the Cobblers still face a fight to stay in league two - though he is sure they have what it takes to do so.

"He (Boothroyd) has brought in a lot of discipline and a lot of good routine and some good structure and the lads have responded to it," he added.

"With the new additions as well we are stronger, training is fast and furious, we are all at it and it is imperative it is that way now. But we can't just stand around and hope it happens, we have got to make it happen ourselves.

"Leaving is the last thing on my mind, but it is between the two clubs.

"I want to stay and fight, but you can see amongst the team, with the new additions, they have got every chance. I'm 100 per cent confident they will get out of it."

The Cobblers, who are now second bottom of npower League Two, are back on the road on Saturday when they travel to mid-table Morecambe.

Lawes injury a blow for Saints

SAINTS have been dealt a big blow with the news lock Courtney Lawes is out of tomorrow night's (Friday) big Premiership showdown with Harlequins, and could be missing for the next four weeks.

Lawes suffered a knee injury in the 32-14 win at Newcastle on New Year's Eve and is now awaiting the results of a scan.

But Saints director of rugby Jim Mallinder expects the 22-year-old to be out for the majority of January.

It's bad news for both Saints and England as Lawes would have hoped for as much game time as possible ahead of the upcoming Six Nations.

But it looks likely he will now miss Northampton's massive Aviva Premiership clash with Harlequins

tomorrow night as well as the following two games, against Scarlets and Munster in the Heineken Cup.

"I don't think he will be fit for Friday," said Mallinder of Lawes. "He's had a scan on his knee and we're awaiting the results of that. It looks as though it's not going to be major but he'll certainly be out for a few weeks."

Lawes plugged a gap in the back row against Newcastle, but his absence is now likely to pave the way for Tom Wood, who was rested at Kingston Park, to return.

Calum Clark could also be in contention for a start against the Premiership pacesetters as he's returned to training after recovering from a dislocated thumb.

Mallinder is relishing the return of two of his key players, who will give a strong look to the Saints back

row for one of the biggest games of the season.

Mallinder said: "It's one of the things we've spoken about in terms of all our positions and the back row's a good example where the majority of our back rowers played the majority of the games (last season). We've got a little bit of flexibility this year with the likes of Woody coming back, Calum coming back, which gives you the opportunity to rest people now and again.

"With Samu Manoa, who can play at number eight, we've got options there which can only be a good thing."

Saints are now up to third in the Premiership table, and will be keen to see off leaders Quins tomorrow night to maintain their challenge of a top-four finish this season and a place in the play-offs.



OUT OF ACTION - Courtney Lawes was injured at Newcastle

